

Paper Topic #2: Functionalism

Write a 4-5 page essay covering the following:

Part 1: Virtues

It is contemporary wisdom in the philosophy of mind that functionalism succeeds where behaviorism and the type-identity theory fail. In particular, functionalist views about the mind avoid both the *holism* objection to behaviorism and the *multiple realizability* objection to the type-identity theory. Explain these objections in detail and show how functionalism avoids both.

Note well

- Make sure to provide a statement and illustration of each respective view.
- No need to spend much space distinguishing the different types of behaviorism.
- No need to discuss Turing Machines in any detail.

Part 2: Vices

In "Troubles with Functionalism," Ned Block presents a series of objections to functionalist views about the mind. Explain his China nation thought experiment and how it presents a counter-example for the view that all mental states are functional states. Do you think it successfully shows functionalism to be false? If not, why not? You are not required to discuss Block's distinction between what he calls psycho-functionalism and functionalism.

***** Due at the latest: 9/11 *****